

Spying: Swede Stole Many Secrets in U.S.

Former Swedish air force Col. Stig Wennerstroem, serving a life sentence for spying for Russia, was able to get into a U.S. strategic Air Force base so secret it was off limits to American military personnel not actually assigned there, it was revealed last week.

Wennerstroem, Swedish air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957, who admitted spying for Russia for 15 years, also took so many photographs of secret material in Washington he wore the skin off his fingers from triggering the camera, testimony released last week also said. The testimony was in the final 900 pages of a pre-trial hearing released by the Swedish government after security screening.

Swedish Secrets Kept

The testimony also confirmed that Wennerstroem gave the Soviets almost only American, British and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) secrets. Wennerstroem told his Swedish interrogators the Russians were not interested in Swedish defense secrets at that time and never pressed him to reveal them.

Wennerstroem said he also worked for the Americans while in Moscow and supplied them with information about a Soviet air force base in the Urals and certain metallurgical secrets. He said he was not subject to the travel restrictions which made it difficult for Americans to get the information. He said he refused to accept payment from the United States as he did not want to "complicate" his relations with the Russians. Instead he let Russian intelligence pay his expenses.

Moscow Ousts Yanks

In Moscow meantime, the Soviet Union accused two American diplomats—the embassy first secretary and his predecessor—of spying. It ordered the first secretary, Richard F. Stolz, to leave the country.

A U.S. spokesman in Moscow said the Soviet action was in retaliation for the American expulsion of a Soviet diplomat early this month. He said the spy charges against the American were unfounded.